Potential of bio-mass technologies

2492. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether modern biomass technologies have the potential to alleviate poverty, improve health, reduce drudgery of women and children, increase productivity, create employment and generate income in rural areas, thereby reducing rural to urban migration;

(b) whether Government have failed in tapping the huge bio-mass potential available in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to bring bio-energy into mainstream for meeting/supplementing the energy demands in urban and rural areas at an affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) For tapping the potential of biomass in the country and promoting modern biomass technologies to meet and supplement energy demand, the Government have already taken several steps, including, continuation of various schemes relating to bio-energy, namely National Biogas and Manure Management Programme, which caters to family type biogas plants; Biomass Gasifier Programme; Biomass Power/Co-generation Programme; Biogas based Distributed/Grid Power Generation Programme and Village Energy Security Test Projects during 2006-07, Provision for financial and fiscal incentives, and support for training, publicity, etc.

Solar radiation data

2493. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Government have not updated the solar radiation data since 1982;

(b) whether this affected the targets with regard to non-conventional energy sources set in the successive Five Year Plans;

(c) the details of solar energy produced in the country since 1982, year-wise and State-wise;